BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 9999 03322 947 5

CS71
.D18
1931

Boston Public Library

No. CS 71.D18 1931

GIVEN BY

John M. Merriam

FRAMINGHAM

to Framlingham-

FRAMLINGHAM CASTLE

5690

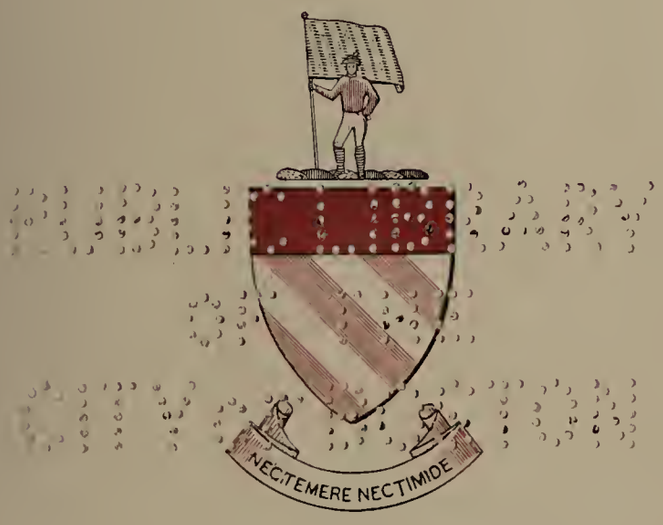
Framlingham Castle, from the Mere.

Published in "The History of Framlingham" by Robert Loder, Woodbridge, England, 1798.

FRAMINGHAM
TO
Framlingham

A GREETING ACROSS THE SEAS
IN MEMORY OF
NICHOLAS DANFORTH
AND HIS
DESCENDANTS

By JOHN M. MERRIAM



PRIVATELY PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A.

1931

*CS71
.D18
1931

Copyright, 1931
by
John M. Merriam

John M. Merriam
April 17, 1940

*The Framlingham Castle,
a sketch of which appears on the
cover of this book, was the early home of
the Howard family, famous in English history as
the Dukes of Norfolk. The ornament on the title-page is a
reproduction of the coat of arms of the Danforth
family. Presented to the author by
Mr. Samuel May, Jr.
of Boston*

PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON

Arranged, designed and printed by
Walton Advertising & Printing Co.
Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

FOREWORD

THE Town of Framingham, Massachusetts, in June, 1930, the Tercentenary year of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, welcomed William Thomas Brunger, Esquire, of Framlingham, Suffolk, England, as her official guest. These distant municipalities of similar name are associated through the life of Thomas Danforth, a native of Framlingham, who became an outstanding magistrate of our Colonial period. He was the pioneer owner of "Danforth's Farms," a plantation which was incorporated as a township in 1700, a year after his death, with the name Framingham.

Mr. Brunger brought with him a beautiful greeting from the Council of the old town, and other gifts of great interest which are now preserved in our Town Library. In our preliminary correspondence with Canon H. C. O. Lanchester, we were informed that Mr. Brunger was "one of our leading townsmen"; that he had been connected with Framlingham College for forty-six years, first as an Assistant Master and then as Secretary; that he was a magistrate and had served on various committees, so that "he is a very good representative of our little town, and he is withal a man of much social charm and a good speaker."

In the days of his visit he more than fulfilled this introduction, and there have resulted not only personal friendships, but a real municipal friendship between our towns. Another result of his visit has been to stimulate a study of the lives of Nicholas Danforth and his six children, all natives of Framlingham, and of their descendants; and a surprising record of influence in the civic, ecclesiastic, intellectual and literary life of our country has developed.

We now learn that a pageant in the old historic Framlingham Castle is planned in the near future and that the closing episode will represent the Departure of Nicholas Danforth and his Children as pioneers to the new land of the Puritan Era. In this connection it seems appropriate to revise and publish a paper written by the President of the Framingham Historical Society last October, entitled "The Contribution of Framlingham, Suffolk, England, to the Colony of Massachusetts Bay";

and this is now done, with the endorsement of the Managers of the Society, the Selectmen of the Town, and the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Tercentenary Committee, as a greeting from the Massachusetts Framingham to the ancient mother town in old England, one of the sources whence came this abundant stream of blessing in the life of America.

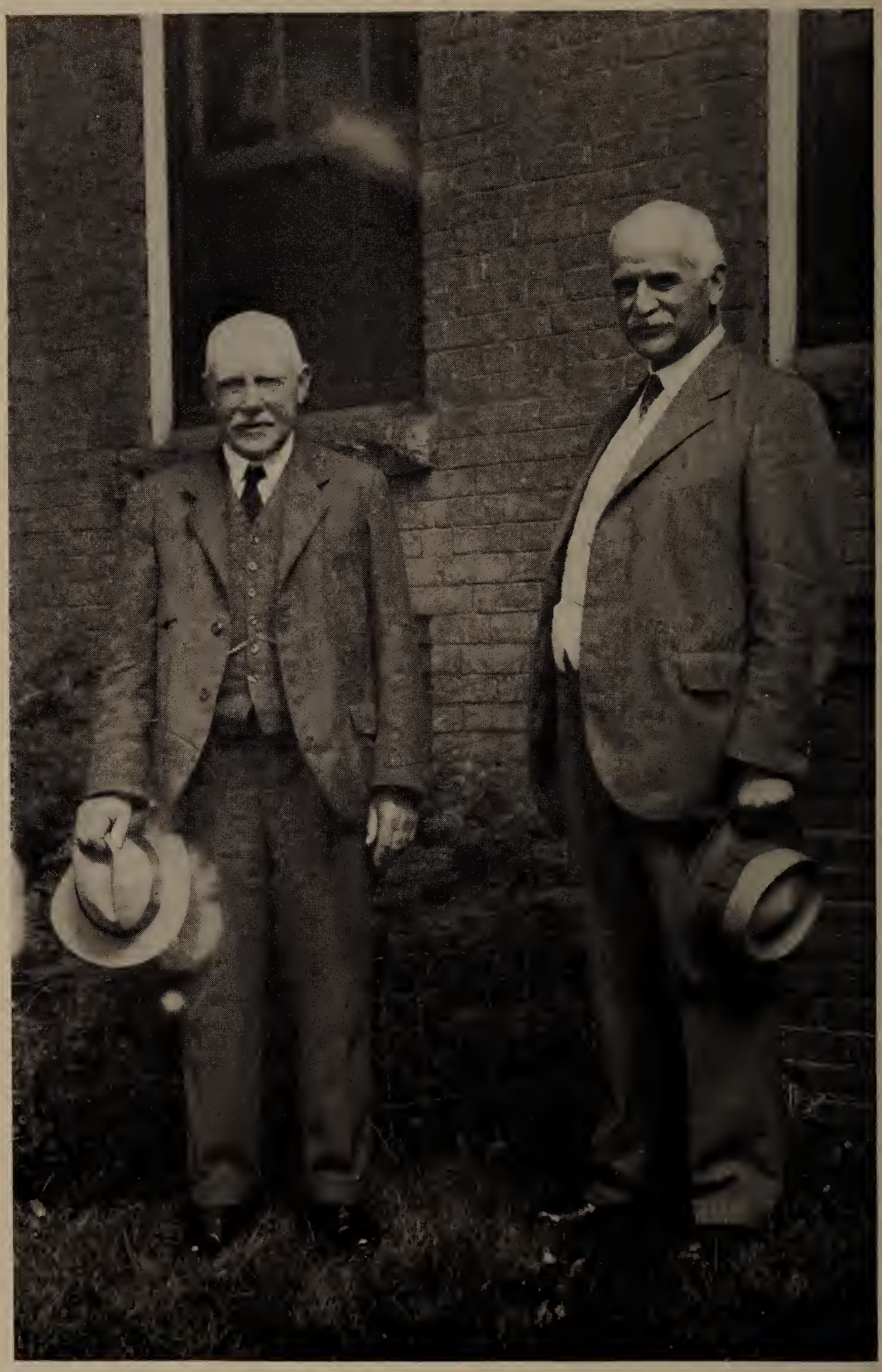
JOHN M. MERRIAM, *President*
FREDERICK B. HORNE
CHARLES A. ESTY
MRS. E. M. WHITE
MARCELLA DAVIS
GEORGE H. EAMES
ORA O. DAVIS
W. B. CHAMBERLIN
LIZZIE E. HOWE
Managers of Framingham Historical Society

CHARLES A. POTTER
SANDS S. WOODBURY
JOHN J. RICE
Selectmen

JOHN J. BRADY, *Chairman*
RAYMOND J. CALLAHAN, *Secretary*
ARTHUR M. FITTS, *Treasurer*
Tercentenary Committee.

Framingham, Mass., U.S.A.
April, 1931.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING, FRAMINGHAM
"Dedicated in honor of our citizens
Who served in the nation's wars
And to the welfare of all our people."
1926



MR. WILLIAM T. BRUNGER AND MR. JOHN M. MERRIAM
at the office of Dennison Manufacturing Company, Framingham, Mass., June 1930.

FRAMINGHAM TO FRAMLINGHAM

A Greeting Across the Seas

WE are told by John Fiske in his "Beginnings of New England" that "while every one of the forty counties of England was represented in the great Puritan exodus, the East Anglian counties contributed to it far more than all the rest." Two-thirds of all the people of the United States, who can trace their ancestry to New England, he estimates, might follow it back to these counties. Of these counties the more prominent in this connection, it seems to me, are Norfolk and Suffolk, the territory of the North-folk and of the South-folk in the early days of the Angles. It is from these counties that many of our familiar town names are derived.

Midway in this territory north and south and about fifteen miles from the North Sea is the ancient town of Framlingham. It lies about ninety miles northeast of London, and some twenty-five miles due east of Bury St. Edmunds, the old capital of East Anglia. We have been wont to refer to this old Suffolk town, Framlingham, as the mother town of our Framingham. But this little English town has a broader meaning than as the mother town of any single Massachusetts municipality.

So far as is generally known there was but one adult immigrant who came in the early colonial period from Framlingham. This was Nicholas Danforth, who is supposed to have sailed from London in 1634 in the ship "Griffin" with a company of Cambridge pioneers. His wife had died in Framlingham in February 1628–9 leaving seven children, the oldest eleven and the youngest an infant of a year. Danforth was a man of position and character. In Cotton Mather's "Sal Gentium," the second volume of his "Magnalia Christi Americana," he is referred to as "a gentleman of such estate and repute in the world that it cost him a

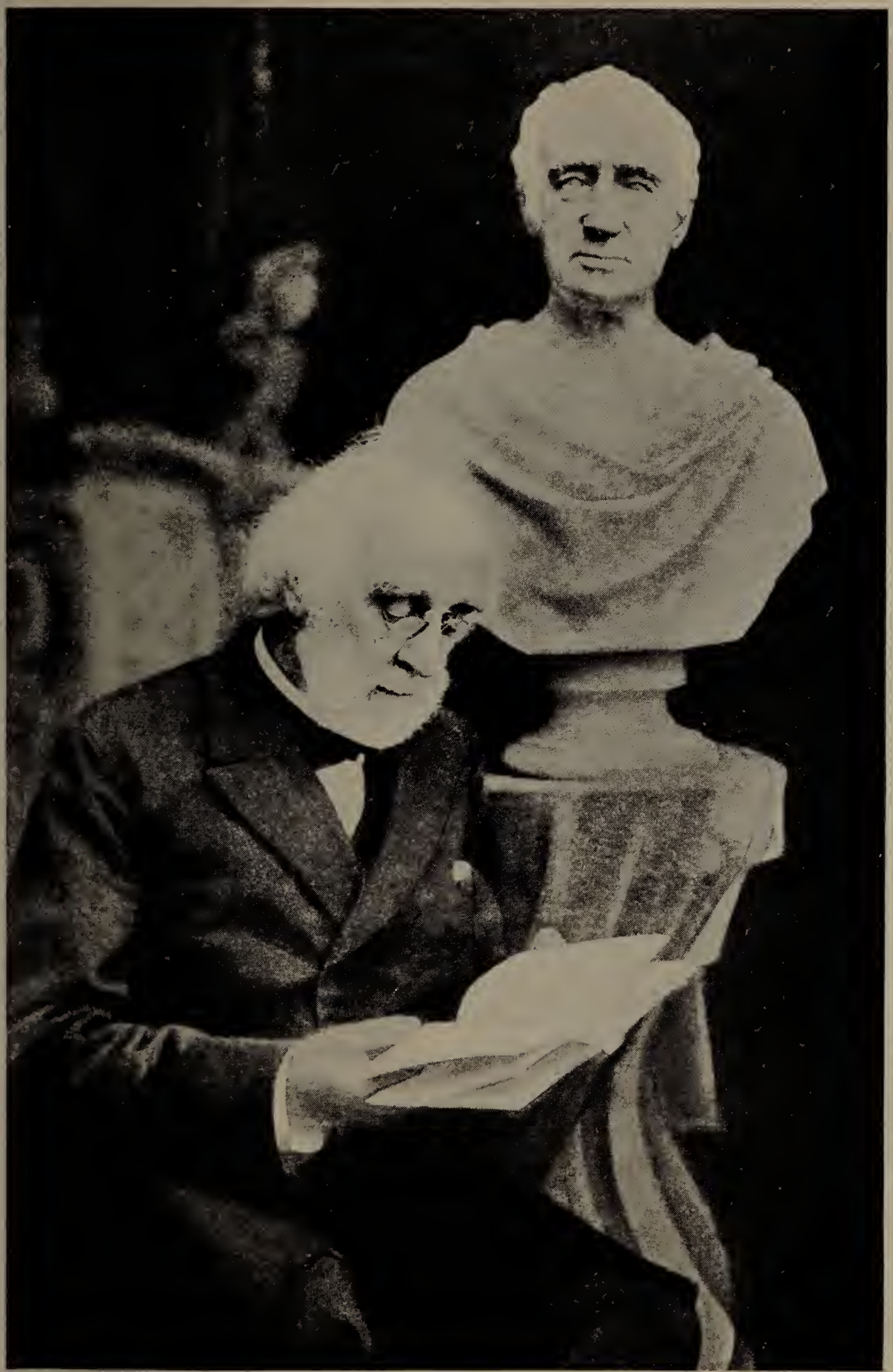
considerable sum to escape the knighthood which K. Charles I imposed on all of so much per annum; and of such figure and esteem in the church that he procured that famous lecture at Framlingham in Suffolk, where he had a fine mannour; which lecture was kept by Mr. Burroughs and many other noted ministers in their times." The records show that the family had lived at Framlingham at least since 1512 through four generations. Nicholas himself had served as a warden of the Parish, and is mentioned as one of the "Court Baron" or Borough Leet Jury, in 1629.

It is significant of that period of unrest in England that this man approaching fifty years of age, with a motherless brood of little ones, should throw aside the comforts of the home country and cast his lot with the adventurers in a far distant and unknown land.

But let us see what his coming has meant to this new land. He became a proprietor of lands in Cambridge in 1635, buying lots and houses from members of the Thomas Hooker party who removed to Connecticut. He was elected a representative to the General Court and was named one of the Committee "to set out the bounds of the new plantaçon of Concord," and again of Roxbury, and between Dedham and Dorchester. But as special evidence of his position in the community we read that he was named by the Court as one of eleven men who were allowed to sell wine and strong water. Thus early was it sought to regulate this traffic by entrusting it to "first citizens."

His life in the Colony was brief—he came in 1634 and died in Cambridge in 1638. Upon his death some one must have had to assume unusual responsibility. There were six minor children left, one having died in England, without father or mother, and probably without any near relatives. Elizabeth and Anna were the older daughters, aged nineteen and sixteen, then came Thomas fifteen, a younger daughter Lydia thirteen, and the two younger sons Samuel and Jonathan twelve and ten. Thomas Shepard of blessed memory in Cambridge, minister of the Parish, and one of the Builders of the Bay Colony described by Samuel Eliot Morison, is referred to as the benefactor of the twelve-year-old Samuel and he probably was among the influential men who befriended the orphan household. All of these children were born in Framlingham, and their baptismal records are all preserved in the archives of St. Michael's Church.

Let us follow by way of brief summary the record of these children and of some of their descendants, to appreciate in some degree the obligation of the Bay Colony, indeed of our country at large, to this little Suffolk community in Old England.



JOHN JOSEPH MAY, AUTHOR OF DANFORTH GENEALOGY

The marble bust is of his father, Samuel May, an old-time Boston merchant.

HOME OF THE FRAMINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Formerly the Framingham Academy.

This work has been made easy for us by the labor of John Joseph May, President of the Dorchester Historical Society, who compiled the "Danforth Genealogy" which was published in 1902. The frontispiece of this work is a picture of the Ancient Castle at Framlingham, England. In this book the author refers to the History by R. Green, published in London in 1834, as his authority on Framlingham. By a strange coincidence this very book containing Mr. May's autograph came into the possession of Mr. Walter Adams and later into my library.

ELIZABETH BELCHER

The oldest child was Elizabeth, a young woman of marriageable age, nineteen years, who soon became the wife of Andrew Belcher, one of the pioneer proprietors of Sudbury and later a tavern keeper in Cambridge. His membership in the Artillery Company, and in the church, prove his social standing.

Among the descendants of Nicholas Danforth, through this daughter Elizabeth Belcher, are Andrew Belcher, Jr., prominent in Cambridge

and Boston, and Jonathan Belcher who was Governor of Massachusetts in 1730, and later Governor of New Jersey, where he died. His name is preserved in our Commonwealth in Belchertown, where he owned land. Another descendant was Thomas Blowers, a lawyer of Boston, who with John Adams defended the British soldiers charged with murder, following the Boston Massacre. He was one of the Boston Loyalists who sailed to Halifax, where he became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. It was he who pronounced the decree which banished the Acadian peasants and gave to Longfellow the story of Evangeline.

In another line we have the Dana family of Cambridge, famous for letters and law; Francis Dana, lawyer of the Revolutionary Period, Congressman, diplomat; Richard Henry Dana, lawyer, publicist, poet; Richard Henry Dana, Jr., author of the American classic, "Two Years Before the Mast," international lawyer named as minister to the Court of St. James, but unfortunately denied this position by senatorial political intrigue; and in still another line the Channing family, and among them the theologian William Ellery Channing, his brothers Doctor Walter Channing, and Edward Tyrrel Channing, Professor of Rhetoric at Harvard, and in a later generation, Professor Edward Channing, recently deceased, author of the latest comprehensive history of the United States.

ANNA BRIDGE

The second daughter, Anna, married in 1644 Matthew Bridge, the son of Deacon John Bridge, one of the founders of Cambridge and later prominent in the early history of Lexington. In this family we have Matthew Bridge the third, who became the second minister in Framingham. In his long service here as minister from 1745–75 there is the most direct association by way of actual residence of this town with the Danforth line which had its beginning in Framlingham. Among the descendants of this daughter Anna Bridge is General Charles Devens, of brilliant record as a soldier, later Attorney-General of the United States, and a Judge of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. Elizabeth Bridge, a daughter of Anna, married Captain Benjamin Garfield of Watertown, and is the ancestress of James Abram Garfield, President of the United States.

THOMAS DANFORTH

Of these six children of Nicholas Danforth the oldest son was Thomas, and his record in our colonial life, particularly in our own local history, has received the most attention. To him we owe our municipal name. Although he never lived here, a large part of our township was

Reproduced from Bond's History of Watertown

MANSION OF REV. MATTHEW BRIDGE, FRAMINGHAM

Built by him in 1747, and occupied as his home until his death. Afterwards occupied by his successor and son-in-law, David Kellogg, D.D. Now known as the Kellogg House.

granted to him, so that this area, formerly a part of the wilderness, so-called, became known as "Danforth's Farms." His life, however, has never been fully written and much of interest has escaped notice. Probably the most complete study was made by our Rev. Calvin Stebbins in the last years of his life, but unfortunately this study has not been preserved.

There is much of interest in his life from the very beginning, when his father died leaving him, a fifteen-year-old boy, as the male head of his family. We can only imagine what his educational training was. Although Harvard received her first pupils in 1638, the year his father died, Thomas Danforth was not among them, this opportunity being given to the younger brother Samuel, who graduated in 1642 in the second class. I imagine some practical work, that of surveyor, claimed the attention of Thomas. Home training from his father, and the kind of learning that comes from contact with men of affairs, must have constituted his education. But he very early developed capacity and influence. He took the freeman's oath in 1643 as soon as he became twenty-one years old. He soon qualified as a surveyor. In 1647 he was appointed by the General Court one of three commissioners to set out land in Cambridge, any two to act, "so as Thom. Danfort be one." Other similar appointments follow. In 1655 Major Simon Willard, Ensign John Sherman and Thomas Danforth are made "a Committee with full power & authoratie to heare & determine all the differences between all or any of the inhabitants of Sudbury; in reference to what is mentioned in their petition." Willard and Sherman were older men and the foremost citizens of Concord and Watertown, and the association of Danforth with them was recognition of his growing position.

In 1650 Harvard College, theretofore existing under authority of a committee, was organized as a corporation on the same basis as continues today and Thomas Danforth was made first official Treasurer and his brother Samuel one of the first "Fellows."

Referring to the service of Thomas Danforth for Harvard College, Josiah Quincy, President and Historian of the College, says of him that he was "the earliest, most steadfast and faithful of its friends."

Another position to which he was appointed as a young man in 1652 was that of "Recorder for Sales of Lands & morgages for the County of Midelsex" corresponding to the present position of Register of Deeds.

He became a Deputy in the General Court in 1657 and continued in that position in 1658. In 1659 he became an Assistant, and this position he held until 1679 when he was elected Deputy Governor, continuing in this office until the annulment of the Colonial Charter and the Andros interregnum. But in 1689 came the reaction, and the people restored

their popular government for a time and "their favorite and trusted leader Thomas Danforth was reinstated as deputy governor."

But under the new charter the old Colony of Massachusetts Bay came to an end, and Massachusetts became a Royal Province in 1692. Royal Governors held office by appointment from the King, and the day of elected chief magistrates was gone until the Revolution.

Danforth was, however, appointed one of the Judges of the Superior Court of Judicature in 1692 by William Phipps, the first Royal Governor, and served with others in the trial of persons charged with witchcraft. But he was less influenced by that delusion than were the Judges of the earlier Court of Oyer and Terminer. To Danforth credit is given in this matter as having "had a chief hand in putting an end to troubles under which the country groaned."

Going back a few years we find that Danforth was selected May 11, 1681 for a new and difficult position. For many years there were conflicting claims with Gorges and Mason that caused trouble both here and in England. The Colony outwitted the home government in this matter by purchasing these claims to the territory known as Maine, and thereby without royal approval assumed and exercised the authority over this Province. Danforth was selected the first President of Maine. This was a novel position inviting controversy with the native Indians, pioneer settlers, and the Royal Government. He held the position by appointment from the General Court until the later Charter.

Another important position held by Danforth for many years was that of Commissioner from Massachusetts Bay to the United Colonies of New England. These New England colonies united in 1643 under a Constitution as "a firm and perpetual league of offence and defence, mutual advice and succor, both for preserving and propagating the truths and liberties of the gospel, and for their mutual safety and welfare." There were annual meetings held successively in Boston, Hartford, New Haven and Plymouth. Each colony was represented by two commissioners, and they voted per capita. The commissioners were chosen by the General Court. Danforth was first chosen one of these Commissioners in 1662, and with the exception of two years he served in this position through 1682. During a portion of this period he was President of the Commissioners. This federation has been referred to as a forerunner of the United States of America.

This is an outline of the major positions held by him through a period of nearly half a century. His record as a magistrate originated and developed in this colony, with nothing by way of college or university training. As such magistrate I believe he was brought more in contact with the people of the colony, surely with the people of Middlesex

THE OLD TOWN HALL
On Framingham Common, Framingham Center, Mass.

County, than any other public man. Thomas Hutchinson, a Royal Governor and also historian of the Bay Colony, says of Danforth, he had "a great share in managing the public affairs in the most difficult times." Another historian, John G. Palfrey, refers "to the task of steering the straining vessel in those stormy times," and adds, "More than any other man then living in Massachusetts, Thomas Danforth was competent to the stern occasion."

It is not out of place in this paper in order that we may appreciate the public service of Thomas Danforth to refer briefly to these "difficult" and "stormy" times. The Charter of the Bay Colony brought to these shores by Gov. John Winthrop in the *Arbella* was a precious state paper to the Puritans. They held that it was an inviolable contract with King Charles I and his Government, giving them powers which no later monarch could modify. Under Cromwell as Protector of the Commonwealth, they handled their local affairs much according to their own desires. And when Charles II became King, as the restored monarch, they were quite indifferent to the change. The restoration came in May, 1660. But it was not until December of that year that the General Court of Massachusetts recognized him as Monarch, and the official proclamation did not come until August 7, 1661. Here is the belated recognition:—

"Most gracious and dread soueraigne:—

May it please your majty, in the day you happily say you now know that you are king over your Brittish Israel, to cast a favorable

eye upon your poore Mephibosheth, now & by reason of lamenes in respect of distance not untill now, appearing in your presence; we meane upon New England kneeling with the rest of your subjects before your Majty as her restored king; we forgett not our ineptness as to these approaches."

And so on through a labored formal show of allegiance. By referring to II Samuel, Chapters 4 and 9, we learn that Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan who was dropped by his nurse and thereby crippled as to "both his feet." After the slaughter of all the other issue of Saul, David, the next king, sought out this lame boy and by reason of his father's kindness in their earlier days made him welcome at the King's table where "he did eat continually." I wonder how much Charles II appreciated this scriptural reference. Soon after there came an occasion, in reply to a letter from the King, for the colonists to state their position more clearly, in the shape of a "declaration of natural and chartered rights." A committee headed by Simon Bradstreet, and of which Danforth was the Secretary, prepared a report approved by the General Court and probably written, Bancroft says, by Danforth, in which "they declare their liberties under God and their patent to be: to choose their own governor, deputy governor, and representatives; to admit freemen on terms to be prescribed at their own pleasure; to set up all sorts of officers, superior and inferior, and point out their power and places; to exercise, by their annually elected magistrates and deputies, all power and authority, legislative, executive, and judicial, without appeal, so long as the laws were not repugnant to the laws of England; to defend themselves by force of arms against every aggression; and to reject, as in infringment of their right, any parliamentary or royal imposition prejudicial to the country, and contrary to any just act of colonial legislation." This almost seems an early draft of the Declaration of Independence.

The story of this struggle with the Royal Government ending with the annulment of the colonial charter, as told by Palfrey, is full of references to Danforth. Edward Randolph appears as a special messenger from the King to examine the doings of these Massachusetts Bay colonists, and for fifteen years he continued as a mischief maker, reporting with partizan zeal everything he deemed lacking in royal allegiance. Justin Winsor calls Randolph "the evil genius of New England who appeared on the scene prepared for mischief." He is particularly bitter in his report of the position of Danforth. He sends back a paper entitled "Articles of High Misdemeanor exhibited against a Faction in the General Court sitting in Boston 15th February 1682, namely against Thomas Danforth, Daniel Gookin" and other magistrates and deputies. He

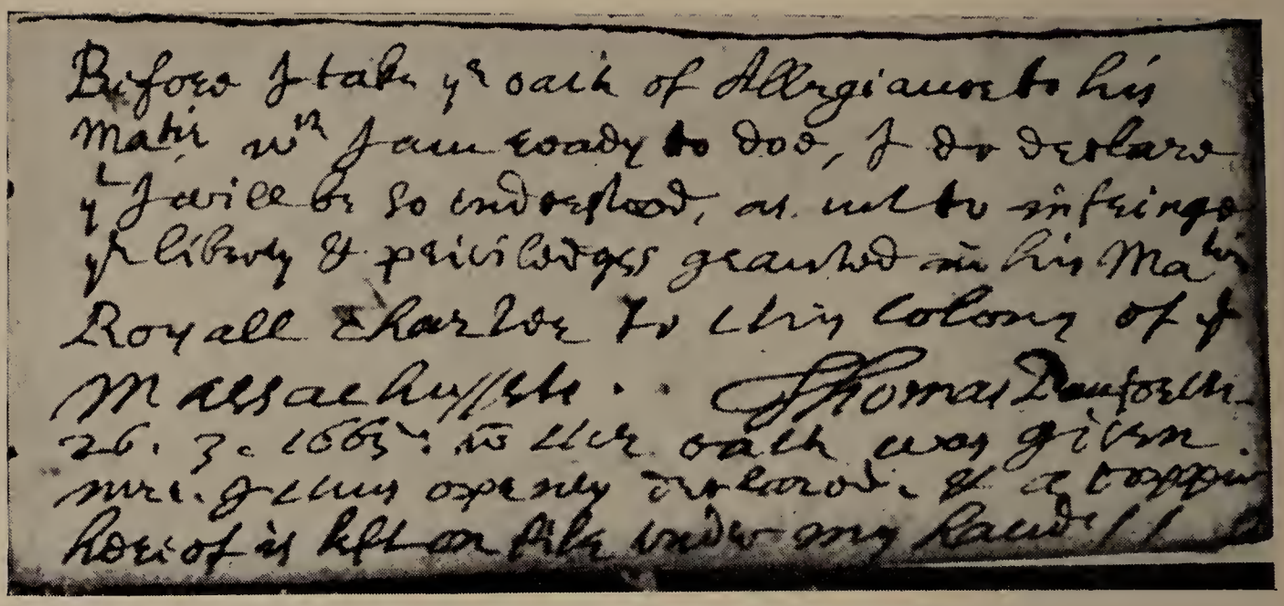
writes, "I will readily pass the seas to attend at Whitehall, especially if Danforth, Gookin and Nowell, Magistrates, and Cooke, Hutchinson and Fisher, Members of the General Court, and great opposers of the honest Governor and Magistrates, be sent for to appear before his Majesty" . . . and he writes that by "extraordinary feats and cozenage" Danforth has got "great estate in land" which might be forfeited by sufficient fine.

Here is an extract from another letter. His Majesty's *quo warranto* against this charter, sending for Thomas Danforth, Samuel Nowell and others "to appear and answer the articles of high misdemeanor, I have now exhibited against them . . . will make the whole faction tremble." Palfrey says, referring to Randolph, "His impatience became every day more uncontrollable." He writes: "Now his Majesty's letters are no more regarded than Gazettes. . . . It's not in the power of the Governor and those few honest gentlemen in the government to give his Majesty satisfaction, being overvoted and run down by Mr. Danforth and his party."

The discussion in the General Court of the demands by Randolph, in the name of the King, was earnest and spirited. "The Court sat diem per diem on the consideration of the weighty matters that were presented." At length in the upper branch a servile majority appeared. But the Deputies "were prepared for no such suicide." To them the question meant "Whether the government of Massachusetts Colony in New England ought to make a full submission and entire resignation to the pleasure of the Court, as to alterations, called regulations, of the Charter." And after a fortnight's debate they voted, in answer to the proposition from the Magistrates, "The Deputies consent not, but adhere to their former bills." Randolph returned to England for the time being defeated.

The archives contain a paper found in Palfrey, of which a natural conjecture points to Danforth as the author. It is signed Phileroy Philopatris. Palfrey says it is extremely well argued. Here are some of the extracts:

"Our civil government is as the cabinet to keep and preserve the precious jewel of religion, which is our life; therefore we cannot consent to part with it, whatever we may suffer; it is better to suffer than to sin and suffer too. But we hope that God will incline the heart of our gracious King to have pity and compassion upon us; . . . if not, to give us courage, faith, and patience to suffer what God in his holy will shall bring upon us. Some wise men and faithful subjects in this land . . .say that this charter is the principal bond and ligament whereby this people are obliged to him (the King) and his successors, as subjects; and if


Before I take y^e oath of Allegiance to his
Matie wch I am ready to doe, I do declare
y^t I will be so understood, as not to infringe
ye liberty & priviledges granted in his Maties
Royall Charter to this Colony of y^e
Massachusetts. Thomas Danforth.
26. 3° 1665. When the oath was given
me. I thus openly declared. & a coppie
hereof is left on file under my hand.

ORIGINAL RECORD OF OATH OF ALLEGIANCE
to Charles II of England, made by Thomas Danforth, Deputy Governor.

the patent be once dissolved by his Majesty, against this people's will, and without their fault, what other bond remain to oblige them to him as subjects?" This last sentence expressing the conviction of earnest men in 1683 is pregnant, it seems to me, with the Declaration of Independence which came in 1776.

There is an interesting original document on file in the Massachusetts Historical Society indicating Danforth's position on this important question. It is the reservation openly declared by him upon taking the oath of allegiance after the restoration of the monarchy. Here it is signed in his own hand:

"Before I take the oath of allegiance to his majesty, which I am ready to do, I do declare, that I will be so understood, as not to infringe the liberty and privileges granted in his majesty's royal charter to this colony of the Massachusetts. Thomas Danforth."

He adds under date of March 26, 1665, "When the oath was given me, I thus openly declared, and a copy hereof is left on file under my hand."

After this long record of public service in which, as I have said, I believe he came in contact with the people of our County and possibly with the people of the Bay Colony at large, more than any other public man, Thomas Danforth died November 5, 1699. The historian of Cambridge, Lucius R. Paige, says of his later days: "The latter years of Danforth's life seem to have been peaceful. Doubtless he lamented the loss of the old Charter, for whose preservation he had struggled so long and so manfully. His strong opposition

to some of the provisions of the new Charter is said to have induced Mather to omit his name from the list of Councillors; yet he finally accepted it as the best which could be obtained, and faithfully labored, both as Councillor and Judge, to administer its provisions in such a manner as to secure the benefit of the people."

There are these interesting passages, too, in the diary of Samuel Sewall, which is to New England much the same as the Pepys Diary to old England. There is this difference, however, that Sewall revels in funerals, and Pepys in the scandals of his time.

"Oct. 28. I visit Mr. Danforth who is very sick; his daughter Foxcroft tells me he is much troubled with the palsy. Was much indisposed the 22d instant, which was the beginning of his sickness; yet would go to meeting, which did him hurt, especially going out in the afternoon. I wished him refreshings from God under his fainting sickness."

"Lord's day, Nov. 5. Tho. Danforth Esq., dies, about 3 past merid., of a fever. Has been a magistrate forty years. Was a very good husbandman, and a very good Christian, and a good councillor; was about 76 years old."

"Sixth day, Nov. 10, 1699. Mr. Danforth is entombed about 1-4 of an hour before 4 P. M. Very fair and pleasant day; much company. Bearers: on the right side, Lt-Governor, Mr. Russell Sewall; left side Mr. W. Winthrop, Mr. Cook, Col. Phillips. I helped lift the corpse into the tomb, carrying the feet."

Thomas Danforth married Mary, daughter of Henry Withington of Dorchester. They had twelve children, six of them dying in early childhood. No son survived him. A daughter Sarah married Reverend Joseph Whiting, and a descendant was William Whiting, a prominent lawyer of Boston, who became a Congressman and a Solicitor of the War Department under President Lincoln. Another daughter, Mary, married Solomon Phipps of Charlestown. A third daughter, Elizabeth, married Francis Foxcroft of Cambridge, and from this line came Phebe Foxcroft who married Samuel Phillips, the founder of Phillips Andover Academy, and whose son Samuel was also a benefactor of this Academy and of the Andover Theological School. Their daughter Mary Ann Phillips was the mother of the Rev. Phillips Brooks, Rector of Trinity Church and Bishop of Massachusetts, a churchman known throughout our Country and abroad.

LYDIA BEAMON

The next younger child in the family of Nicholas Danforth was Lydia, baptized in Framlingham May 24, 1625, and thirteen years old when her father died. She married William Beamon, one of the pioneer settlers

of Saybrook, Connecticut. Their daughter Lydia was the first female child born in Saybrook. The Danforth Genealogy by May records the names of one son and six daughters, but beyond this there is no information of these Connecticut descendants of Nicholas Danforth.

SAMUEL DANFORTH

Thomas Danforth's record was that of the magistrate. His younger brother Samuel made an equally brilliant record as a minister. He was baptized in Framlingham October 17, 1626, and was, therefore, but twelve years old when his father Nicholas died. We have his biography in the great work of Cotton Mather, the Magnalia Christi Americana. In one of these volumes this eminent churchman, the ecclesiastical leader of his time in New England, has summarized the lives of ten men, early graduates of Harvard College. In the opening paragraph of this volume we have these sentences: "Socrates being asked which was the most beautiful creature in the world, answered a man garnished with learning. But, with his leave, a more beautiful creature is a man garnished with virtue. Reader, I will now show thee ten men garnished with both."

The second of these ten men is the Rev. Samuel Danforth. In this biography we are told that "by the desire of his mother who died three years after his birth" he was "dedicated unto the schools of the prophets" and that his father committed him "unto the paternal oversight of Mr. Shepard who proved a kind patron to him." This was "Master" Thomas Shepard, first pastor of the First Church of Cambridge, of whom Samuel Eliot Morison says, "His was not the greatest intellect in New England, but he was one of the best loved men." Danforth was one of the first pupils to be enrolled in the new college. The early catalogue gives four graduates of the Class of 1643, the second class, and Samuel Danforth is one of the four. For a time he was a tutor and later became a "Fellow," and as such one of the original incorporators of the college. In 1650 he became an associate minister of the Church in Roxbury with John Eliot, "whose evangelical employment abroad among the Indians, made a colleague at home to be necessary for him."

But his avocations will interest us quite as much as his ministerial vocation. Morison says of him, "I will not say that he was the first graduate of an American college who ever wrote a poem—but I venture to claim him as the first American college poet whose work has survived."

Here is a stanza from one of his poems, said by Morison to refer to the first fall in the Boston stock market and the consequent rise of foreign commerce.

Few think, who only hear, but doe not see,
That Plenty groweth much upon this tree.
That since the mighty Cow her crown hath lost,
In every place shee's made to rule the rost:
That heaps of wheat, pork, bisket, beef and beer,
Masts, pipestaves, fish, should store both farre and neer.
Which fetch in wines, cloth, sweets, and good tobacc—
O be contented then, you cannot lack.

And by way of further suggestions of opportunities for wealth he refers to the natural resources of New England in this stanza:

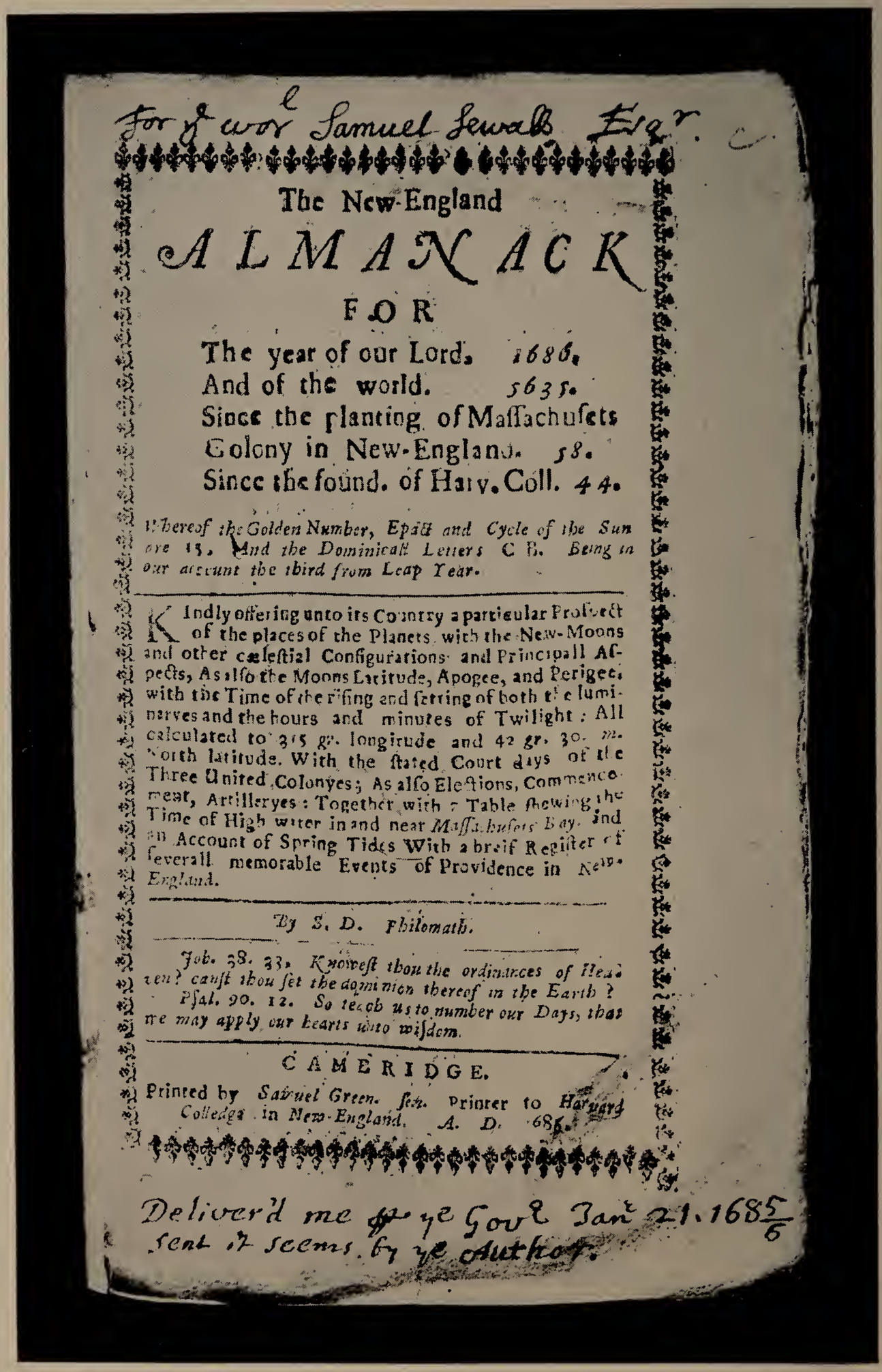
Of late from this tree's root within the ground
Rich Mines branch out, Iron and Lead are found
Better than Peru's gold or Mexico's
Which cannot weapon us against our foes,
Nor make us howes, nor siths, nor plough-shares mend.
Without which tools mens honest lives would end.
Some silver-mines, if any here doe wish,
They it may finde i' th' bellyes of our fish.

Think of this from a Puritan minister! Possibly we have painted the Puritans in too sombre colors.

But perhaps his greatest claim to fame rests in the fact that he edited the first American almanacs. The title-page of one of these almanacs is reproduced in this book.

He has even been given the name of astronomer. One of the scientific studies of this period is his description of the comet of 1664. In this treatise Mather tells us "he diligently observed the motions of it, from its first appearance in Corvus, whence it made a descent, crossing the tropick of Capricorn, till it arrived unto the main top-sail of the ship, and then it returned through Canis Major, again crossed the tropick of Capricorn, passing through Lepus, Eridanus; and the Equinoctial, and entered into the mouth of the Whale, and so into Aries." To do this with the primitive equipment of the time and place in which he lived should, it seems to me, give him the title of astronomer.

In this biography by Cotton Mather, we have a vivid picture of the infant mortality of this early period. Samuel Danforth and his wife Mary, daughter of the Rev. John Wilson, the first minister of Boston, had twelve children, but only four, possibly five, lived to maturity. Three died in their first year, three more under six years, another eight



For y^e wor^l Samuel Sewall Esqr.

The New-England

ALMANACK

FOR

The year of our Lord. 1686.
And of the world. 5635.
Since the planting of Massachusets Colony in New-England. 58.
Since the found. of Harv. Coll. 44.

Whereof the Golden Number, Epact and Cycle of the Sun are 15. And the Dominicall Letters C B. *Being in our account the third from Leap Year.*

KIndly offering unto its Country a particular Prospect of the places of the Planets with the New-Moons and other cælestial Configurations and Principall Aspects, As also the Moons Latitude, Apogee, and Perigee, with the Time of the rising and setting of both the luminaries and the hours and minutes of Twilight: All calculated to 315 *gr.* longitude and 42 *gr.* 30. *m.* North latitude. With the stated Court days of the Three United Colonyes; As also Elections, Commencement, Artilleryes: Together with a Table shewing the Time of High water in and near *Massachusets Bay.* and an Account of Spring Tides With a breif Register of severall memorable Events of Providence in New-England.

By S. D. Philomath.

Job. 38. 33. *Knowest thou the ordinances of Heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the Earth?*
Psal. 90. 12. *So teach us to number our Days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*

CAMBRIDGE.

Printed by *Samuel Green. sen.* Printer to *Harvard Colledge* in *New-England. A. D.* 686.

Deliver'd me by ye Govr Jan^r 21. 1685/6
Sent it seems by ye Author.

TITLE-PAGE OF THE NEW ENGLAND ALMANACK FOR 1686

From the original in the Library of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass. Apparently a presentation copy from Samuel Danforth to Judge Samuel Sewall, the diarist, by the hand of Thomas Danforth, Deputy Governor.

years. Their first child, a son, died a mere infant, then three daughters were taken by a mysterious epidemic described by Mather as follows:

"In December 1659, the (until then unknown) malady of bladders in the windpipe, invaded and removed many children; by opening of one of them the malady and remedy (too late for very many) were discovered. Among those many that thereby expired, were the three children of the Reverend Mr. S. D. the oldest of whom (being upward of five years and a half. . . .)" Whether this was an early appearance of membranous croup or diphtheria, or some disease since then overcome by medical science, may interest our doctors.

The personality of Samuel Danforth interests me. On the one hand he is described by Mather as learned, of great piety, and held in high esteem as a minister. He wears well the title of Reverend. On the other hand Morison, one of the best informed historians of New England now living, dares to call him "Sam" ("Builders of the Bay Colony," p. 175) and has revived an interest in his verses, which have a levity inconsistent with the traditional ministerial dignity. Take the stanzas already quoted. And here is a stanza descriptive of the month of April.

> That which hath neither tongue nor winges
> This month how merrily it sings.
> To see such, out for dead who lay
> To cast their winding sheets away.
> Friends would you live? some pils then take
> When head and stomach both doe ake.

I am not able to explain the sudden transition from the cheering greeting of the frog to the matter of a spring tonic, but I give it as I find it.

Here is another rather clever stanza descriptive of the commerce which gladdened the coming of July.

> The wooden Birds are now in sight
> Whose voices roar, whose wings are white,
> Whose maws are fill'd with hose and shooes
> With wine, cloth, sugar, salt and newes
> When they have eas'd their stomachs here
> They cry farewell, until next yeare.

Altogether I think he was a pretty good "fellow," well suited to be one of the first official body of Harvard College.

Mary, the daughter of Samuel Danforth, married Edward Bromfield of Boston, and from this couple, May says, "an honorable posterity has sprung," among them Josiah Quincy, Jr., who became mayor of Boston 1823–29, and President of Harvard College 1829–45.

Masukkenukeeg
MATCHESEAENVOG
WEQUETOOG *kah* WUTTOOANATOOG
Uppeyaonont CHRISTOH, kah ne
YEUYEU
TEANUK.
Wa[illegible] ahche nunnukquodt missinninnuh ukquohquenaount wutaiuskianatamooonganoo. Kah Keke ookaonk papaume WUSSITTUMWAE kesukodtum: kah papaume nawhutch onkatogeh W[illegible]omwayeuongash.

Nashpe INCREASE MATHER.
Kukkootomwehteaenuh ut oomoeuwehkomonganit ut *Bostonut*, ut *New England*.

Eccles. 12. 13. *Nootamuttuh pakodtittumwonk mamuss* [illegible]

Acts 20. 21. *Noowaunwahheunmean Jewsog kah Greekseg* [illegible]

Yeuth kukkootootomwehteaongash: qushkinnumunash en *Indiane* unnontoowaonganit nashpe *S. D.*

Bostonut Printuoop nashpe *Bartholomew Green*, kah *John Allen*. 1698.

[3]

The Epistle Dedicatory.

To the Reverend
Increase Mather, D. D.
President of Harvard Colledge *in* Cambridge, *Teacher of a Church in* Boston, *and one of the Commissioners for the Propagation of the Gospel among the* Indians *in* AMERICA.

Reverend SIR,

OF the Sermons herewith emitted, the Translation is only mine (which hath been approved by divers Reverend persons much longer and better versed in the *Indian* Language, than my[self]) the rest under Christ is yours, an Offspring whereof you have no reason to be ashamed, though in a Salvage dress, it waits upon its Reverend Father for his blessing. We were the most unjust People in the world if we should not

4 The Epistle Dedicatory.

not thankfully acknowledge the very self denying and generous piety, which our Lord hath given you to exercise, in *Printing* many profitable Treatises, in which you have not given unto God that which cost you nothing, nor sought (your family are witnesses) your own profit, but the profit of many, that they might be saved; nor yet your own worldly glory, as is evident, inasmuch as (notwithstanding your vast Learning) you stoop down to a most plain style; so accommodating the greatest mysteries of Religion unto the meanest Capacities: On which account, I am very confident the whole world will commend my choice as to the *Sermons* I have pitched upon, for the present Translation; since the Conversion and Edification only of those who of all mankind stand in most need of the greatest plainness, was my professed duty and design. Having been imployed together with the Reverend Mr. *Grindal Rawson*, by the Honorable the Lieutenant Governour and Commissioners of the Honorable Corporation, to visit all the *Indians* in this Province, I have had Opportunity to see and hear *that* among them which encourages me more than ever, to think that the great Charge and pains expended for their good, is not wholly in vain. The faith and piety which many of them manifested before their departure out of the world; the importunity of those yet living that

The Epistle Dedicatory. 5

that the Gospel might still be Preached to them; their reverend and diligent Attention to the word when Preached; their extraordinary Inquisitiveness into the meaning of such Scriptures as are dark to them; their care to teach their Children to Read and Write, and to learn them their Catechisms, are hopeful and encouraging signs that God hath some Mercy in store for them. Now since the Divine Blessing (without which *Paul may plant and Apollo may water* in vain) waits but the imploring, you will not be wanting in your fervent Supplications, that he that only can, would graciously please to make me not a Minister only of the *Letter*, but of the *Spirit*, and that being assisted from above unto Watchfulness, Faithfulness and Diligence, and every other needful vertue, I may both save my self and those that hear me. Thus, with earnest Prayers, that you may yet live to be a further blessing in your Generation, that *English* and *Indians*, the *Colledge*, the *Church* and the *World*, may long enjoy the benefit of your Faith, Prayers, Cares and Labour for their good: I take leave and remain,

Reverend Sir,
Your most Obedient Son and Servant in Christ Jesus,

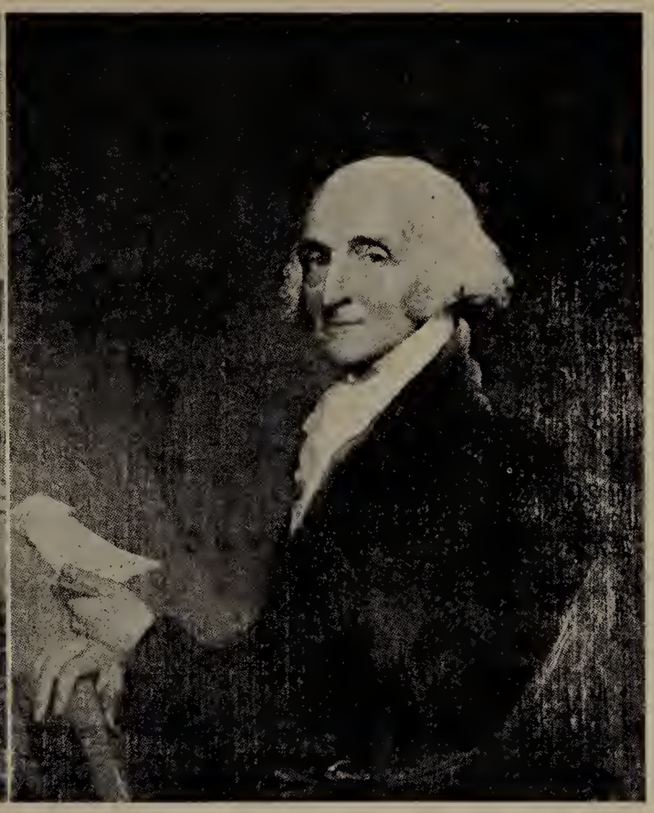
Taunton, 14th 8. 1698.

Samuel Danforth

TITLE-PAGE AND EPISTLE DEDICATORY

of Samuel Danforth's translation into the Indian tongue of a sermon by Increase Mather.

PORTRAIT OF MRS. HANNAH DANFORTH CARPENTER
who lived to be 100 years old.



PORTRAIT OF SAMUEL DANFORTH, M.D.
By Gilbert Stuart.

Samuel Danforth was not only a minister himself, but he was a father of ministers, the Reverend John and the Reverend Samuel, Junior.

John Danforth graduated from Harvard in 1677 and like his father became a Fellow. His one settlement as a minister was over the church of Dorchester. Here he served some forty-eight years. It is recorded that he was a man "of great Learning" that he "understood ye Mathematicks beyond most men of his function," that he was "exceedingly charitable and of a very peaceful temper." But here is a title of one of his sermons found in Appleton's Dictionary of American Biography: "The Vile Profanation of Prosperity, by the Degenerate among the people of God."

Samuel Danforth, Jr., a graduate of Harvard in 1683, was ordained pastor of the church of Taunton, and gave his life service to that town. We are told that he not only served as minister but as school-teacher, and that he practiced medicine and "acted as a lawyer in certain cases." He also owned a fulling mill, a dye house and a comb shop. He must have been a man of unusual talents. He died in 1727 after a pastorate of nearly forty years.

Among the treasures of the Boston Public Library, I have found a sermon by Increase Mather translated into the Indian tongue by this Samuel Danforth, the Title-Page and Dedicatory Letter of which are

reproduced in this book. He also left a manuscript Indian Dictionary formed from Eliot's translation of the Bible with a scriptural reference under every word. This is one of the priceless treasures of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Talk of the activities of the present day, where can you find an example of diligence such as this!

And this name Samuel Danforth was most honorably borne by a third Samuel, a physician who became a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; President of the Massachusetts Medical Society 1794–98, and corresponding member of the London Medical Society. His portrait by Gilbert Stuart hangs in the Boston Medical Library. He practiced first in Newport, later in Boston. It is said that in difficult cases "his opinion was valued as the utmost of American skill." He was a chemist, and his laboratory was perhaps the best in the country. Like many of the more aristocratic people of the Revolutionary era, his loyalty was to his King, but he remained in Boston and died there in 1827 in his 80th year.

He is included in Sabine's Loyalists, where it is said "at the evacuation he was treated harshly. But as Whigs could not do without physicians better than others, he was soon in full practice, and the confidence of his patients was nearly unlimited and their attachment almost without bounds." Other Loyalists in the Danforth family were Thomas, a brother of the Reverend Samuel of Taunton, who was a lawyer in Charlestown, a graduate of Harvard, and one of the so-called Addressers of Governor Hutchinson. He was the only lawyer in Charlestown and "the only inhabitant who sought protection from the parent country" at the outbreak of the Revolution. He was among the Halifax refugees in 1776 and later returned to London, where he died in 1825.

I cannot close this outline of the Samuel Danforth line without referring to Thomas Danforth, the son of the Taunton minister. This is an age of antique hunters and old books, old furniture, old glass and old pewter are objects fondly treasured. Thomas Danforth was one of the earliest pewterers. He is called "the ancestor of the two largest pewtering families of America, the Danforths and the Boardmans." His pewter is highly prized. I wonder if there is any of it in Framingham.

JONATHAN DANFORTH

The youngest child in the family of Nicholas Danforth was Jonathan, baptised in Framlingham, March 2, 1627–8. His mother died when he was one year old and his father when he was ten years old. The one significant fact of his early life is that he was not a graduate

of the new college, the family apparently being able to give this advantage only to Samuel. He must have shown an active interest in the affairs of Cambridge, because he was one of the leaders in the settlement of the Town of Billerica, which was an offshoot of Cambridge. As a young man he took an active part in the settlement of this new town. It is recorded that "he gave to the enterprise his best planning and executive ability."

Here he established his home and the house which he built was standing until 1878. One of the tercentenary tablets has been placed here, with the following inscription, the quoted part of which is from the writings of Rev. John Danforth, the pastor at Dorchester: Danforth Homestead. Site of Homestead of Captain Jonathan Danforth, Pioneer of Billerica and famous surveyor. "He rode the circuit, chain'd great towns and farms to good behavior; and by well-marked stations he fixed their bounds for many generations." He served as town clerk, selectman, representative, and captain of the militia company. By profession he was a surveyor and laid out the early farms and highways not only in Billerica but in adjoining towns and even outside of Middlesex County. We have this statement in May's Genealogy: "his descriptions fill 200 pages in his clear handsome writing in the Billerica volume of land grants." His name is of frequent occurrence in the colonial records as a surveyor, whose work comes before the General Court for confirmation. He was more than ordinarily active in the militia and he was known as Captain Jonathan through his life. He had a family of eleven children. In the inventory of his estate filed in the Probate records he is referred to as "Captain Jonathan Danforth, gentleman." This last word was used more sparingly in the older days and has greater meaning than at present. He lived to the ripe age of 82 years and his grave is found in the old cemetery of Billerica. He left a son who is known as Lieutenant Jonathan, apparently a life-long resident of Billerica, and another son, Samuel, to whom was granted a right in a township to the soldiers who were in the Narragansett Wars. The third generation, represented by Captain Jacob, by John and by Samuel, is on record in the Town of Billerica.

But time will not permit a further detailed study of May's Genealogy of the Danforth family; beyond this, that in justice to the women of this family, it seems to me I must refer to Mrs. Hannah Danforth Carpenter, the daughter of Thomas Danforth of Norton, a descendant of Nicholas through four Samuels. Her picture is expressive of the

best of New England womanhood in dignity and grace. On her one hundredth birthday the Town of Norton sent her greetings, referring to "her cheerful disposition, the beauty of her life as unfolded, which has made her honored and beloved by a host of friends."

By way of summary it would appear that the descendants of these children of Nicholas Danforth, all of whom were natives of Framlingham, have spread throughout our entire country. The index of places given at the end of the Genealogy covers a breadth of area extending undoubtedly into every state of the Union. The family has been organized in an association which has held, from time to time, meetings in Boston and Chicago, and possibly in other places. The proceedings at some of these meetings are on record in the Boston Public Library. At one of these occasions on September 1, 1886, Mr. Samuel May, son of Mr. John Joseph May, wrote a poem descriptive of the early Danforths. He refers to the three brothers in these concluding stanzas:

Thus was transplanted our ancestral tree;
In yonder field its sturdy form took root;
Then from its noble trunk came branches three;
And from their life grew vigorous stem and shoot,
Under whose sheltering leaves, from year to year,
Buds swelled and burst in bloom;—the fruit is here!

This is the story of the parent tree,
Hardy through grace, robust through sacrifice.
Do you seek knowledge of the branches three?
Does not this harvest of their fruit suffice?
Surely on thorns grapes ne'er are found, I wot,—
And figs from thistles never can be got!

THOMAS

"The eldest branch was trained toward the law,
To bloom in fields of literary fame;
From Harvard's hands triumphal bays he wore,
She saw his genius, and adorned his name;
And Fortune, smiling with propitious fate,
Gave him the rudder of the Ship of State."

SAMUEL

"The second branch spread over churchyard ground,
Sheltering alike the ignorant and wise;
And Faith's bright tendrils gently twined around,
Like Jacob's ladder leading toward the skies;
Towering with graceful strength it seemed to say,
'To fairer realms than these I point the way.'"

JONATHAN

"The youngest stretched a leafy guardianship
O'er trackless wastes of Massachusetts soil,
Where Freedom's loyal votaries might equip
Homes for posterity by honest toil—
Foreshadowing thriving cities on her grounds,
Fixing our Commonwealth by metes and bounds."

"Country! Religion! Homes! need there be more
To bless man's lot? What further can there be?
Now that Religion's free from shore to shore,
Now that our Country spreads from sea to sea,—
We read the legacy in History's glass,
Bequeathed to us by our Saint Nicholas!"

Mr. Brunger told us that they were already planning a pageant to be held in Framlingham in July, 1931. I presume the scene of this pageant will be within the walls of the old Castle. I can imagine something of the episodes which will be presented, going back through the history of the centuries to the martyrdom of King Edmund, known as one of the saints of England. Other episodes undoubtedly will deal with the history of the Howard family who, as Dukes of Norfolk, have played a leading part in the great historical events of England. I presume some reference will be made to the first royal court of Edward VI held in Framlingham Castle, also probably to the stand made there by Mary Tudor, the first queen regnant of England. The closing episode, Mr. Brunger told us, would be the appearance of Nicholas Danforth and his six children saying good-bye to their Mother Country upon their departure to the New England of the Puritan Era. I wish in some way it were possible to represent in that episode the potentialities of this family group.

This pageant will be of great interest as depicting important events in the history of England before 1630. But this final episode is prophetic

of the life of America. Here is a father, with his three sons and three daughters, coming to aid in the planting of a new colony, and this colony in time, with other similar units, becomes our great nation and the home of a strong people. And in Nicholas Danforth and his children —this Framlingham family of 1634—we find one of the sources of our strength; for among his descendants, from generation to generation, are men and women of influence in private and in public life, outstanding in their callings—ministers, magistrates, leaders in academic and collegiate life, men of letters, theologians, a diplomat, a cabinet minister, and a President of the United States.

FINIS

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 9999 06438 337 3

JUL 30 1940